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A

BRIEF MEMOIR

OF

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM;

WITH AN

Abstract of his Will,

AND OF

THE ACT OF PARLIAMENT,

FOR

THE FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT

OF

GRESHAM COLLEGE.

LONDON:

J. F. AND G. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD;

AND

SMITH, ELDER AND CO., CORNHILL.

1833.

Price 1s.

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY STEWART AND CO.,
OLD BAILEY.

A BRIEF MEMOIR,
OF
SIR THOMAS GRESHAM,

THE name of SIR THOMAS GRESHAM stands pre-eminently distinguished among those benefactors to their country, who have raised the character of an English merchant to its present high rank in society. He may be adduced as one amongst the many honourable proofs, that the pursuits of science, and the cultivation of the fine arts, are not incompatible with the avocations of commerce, and the attainment of wealth. In after-ages, when the schools and colleges, the scientific and literary institutions of this metropolis, shall enter into rivalry with those of foreign capitals, the citizens of London may reflect with pride, that the earliest of those foundations owed its origin to an English merchant; that the endowment of Gresham College, and the institution of the Gresham Lectures, arose from the unaided munificence of a citizen of London, nearly three centuries ago.

The founder of Gresham College was the younger son of Sir Richard Gresham, who served the office of Lord Mayor in 1537, and the nephew of Sir John Gresham, who held the same honourable station in 1547. Neither the time nor place of his birth is known with certainty; but it is supposed that he was born in the year 1519, in the parish of

St. Lawrence Jewry, where his parents were buried.* He was bred a scholar, and was admitted a pensioner of Gonville Hall,† Cambridge; but the year is not preserved, there being no register of admissions so early. It is, however, probable, that he spent a considerable time at that Hall. A.D. 1543, he was admitted a member of the Mercers' company, after serving an apprenticeship to his uncle, Sir John Gresham. He married Anne, the daughter of William Fernley, Esq. of West Creting in Suffolk, and widow of William Reade, Esq., by whom he had a son named Richard. The time of his marriage could not be later than 1544, as we learn from a curious picture‡ of him at full length, in which, on the right side is that date, with his name and age, "1544, THOMAS GRESHAM, 26;" and on the left, the initial letters, both of his wife's name and his own, with the following motto,

"A. G. LOVE, SERVE, AND OBEI. T. G."

It appears that he lived in London, and pursued his business of a merchant with great diligence during the life of his father, probably with the view of succeeding him in the management of the king's money affairs at Antwerp; but

* Stow, in his survey of London, has preserved the following monumental Inscription:—

"Here lyeth Sir Richard Gresham, Knight, sometimes Lord Maior of London, and Audrey his first wife, by whom he had issue Sir John Gresham and Sir Thomas Gresham, Knights, William, and Margaret. Which Sir Richard deceased the xx day of February, A. D. M^DXLVIII.; and Audrey deceased the xxviii day of December, A. D. M^DXXII."

† Dr. Caius in his Annals says of him, "Una nobiscum per juventutem hujus Collegii Pensionarius erat Thomas Gresham, nobilis ille et doctissimus Mercator, qui forum Mercatorium Londini extruxit."

‡ See the Lives of the Professors of Gresham College, and of the Founder, Sir Thomas Gresham, by John Ward, Professor of Rhetoric in Gresham College, fol. 1748. This picture, at the time of Mr. Ward's publication, was in the possession of John Thurston, Esq. at Hoxne Abbey, Co. Suffolk.

in this he was disappointed: for on the decease of his father another person obtained the appointment. The new agent, however, executed his trust with such negligence and want of skill, that he was ordered home to account for his misconduct, and the agency was given to Mr. Gresham.

The usual method in which these money transactions had been previously managed, was greatly to the prejudice of the crown of England, as well by giving a very large interest for the money borrowed, as other inconveniences when the money was not paid within the time of the contract. Mr. Gresham was sent to Antwerp on that account at the latter end of the year 1551, and again at the beginning of the year following; and the money which had been taken up in his agency, not being paid at the time agreed on, gave him great uneasiness, his business then being to get it prolonged. Now the method taken by the creditors in such cases was to insist upon the king's purchasing jewels, or some other commodities, to a considerable value, as a consideration for prolonging the debt, besides continuing the interest. This way of proceeding, Mr. Gresham thought neither for the honour of his majesty, nor for his own credit as agent; and, therefore, he proposed a scheme to bring the king wholly out of debt in two years, which way was this: — "In case the king and council would assign him twelve or thirteen hundred pounds a week, to be secretly received at one man's hands, that so it might be kept secret, he would so use that matter in the town of Antwerp, that every day he would be seen to take up in his own name 200*l.* sterling by exchange; and thus doing it should not be perceived, nor administer occasion to make the exchange fall."

It is probable that the young king assented to the proposal; and by the advantageous turn which was thus given

to the exchange in favour of England, not only the price of all foreign commodities was greatly sunk and abated, but likewise gold and silver, which before had been exported in large quantities, was then most plentifully brought back again.*

Upon Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne in 1558, he was immediately taken into her service, and employed to provide and to buy up arms. The year following she conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and appointed him her agent in foreign parts. Wherefore being now in the greatest credit and esteem, he thought it necessary to place himself in a situation most convenient for his business, and suitable to his character. To this end he built a large and sumptuous house for his own dwelling, on the west side of Bishopsgate Street, which answered Stow's description of it, when speaking of the buildings in that neighbourhood: he says, "There are some houses for men of worship, namely, one most spacious of all other there aboute, builded of bricke and timber, by Sir Thomas Gresham, Knight." But at the period when his worldly prosperity had reached its height, he had the misfortune to lose his only son, Richard, who died in the year 1564, and was buried in the church of St. Helen, situated on the east side of Bishopsgate Street, opposite to his mansion house. From this time he seems to have devoted himself, in a great measure, to the service of his fellow citizens; but before he carried into effect his own great design, he raised a monument to his father's memory,† by completing a work which had been projected by him.

* Ward.

† While Sir Richard Gresham was in office, he wrote a letter to Sir Thomas Audeley, then Lord Privy Seal, to acquaint him that there were certain houses in Lombard Street belonging to Sir George Moneux, which, if purchased and

Sir Thomas Gresham proposed to the corporation of London to erect at his own expense, a commodious building, where merchants might daily assemble, and transact business with one another, provided they would furnish him with a convenient spot for this purpose. The offer was gratefully accepted; and on the 7th of June, 1566, Sir Thomas Gresham laid the foundation of a building,* since known as the ROYAL EXCHANGE OF LONDON.

Sir Thomas had scarcely entered upon the execution of this grand design, when the Queen's affairs called him abroad. For in the same year, 1566, he was sent over to Antwerp to borrow money for her majesty to the amount of nearly 60,000*l*. The Queen, who had hitherto followed the practice of taking loans from foreigners, was advised by Sir Thomas "to take up the money she needed of her own merchants, which would be both for her honour, and their benefit, while she allowed them the same consideration she had done strangers before."

pulled down, a handsome Bourse might be built on the ground. The Bourse, he supposes, would cost two thousand pounds and more; one thousand of which he doubts not to raise before he was out of office.—*Ward*.

* There were several buildings of this sort in foreign parts, but that at Antwerp was the most considerable; to which Sir Thomas, therefore, was more especially desirous to conform his own plan, being unwilling it should be inferior to any abroad, either for ornament or use, since London was then so eminent a city, both for extent and grandeur, as well as traffic.—*Ward*.

The statue of the illustrious founder, observes Dr. Hunter, is placed in an obscure corner under the north piazza, shrouded with placards, shop bills, and advertisements; while a recently erected one, in marble, of Charles II., occupies the centre of the area. History of London, by the Rev. H. Hunter, D. D. 1811. In the temple of British worthies in the gardens at Stow, the following inscription is placed under his bust.

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM,
WHO BY THE HONOURABLE PROFESSION OF A MERCHANT,
HAVING ENRICHED HIMSELF AND HIS COUNTRY,
FOR CARRYING ON THE COMMERCE OF THE WORLD,
BUILT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

"A. D. 1570, on the 23d of Januarie, the Queene's Majestie, attended by her nobilitie, came from her house at the Strande, called Somerset House, and entered the city by Temple Bar, through Fleete Streete, Cheapside, and so by the North side of the Burse, to Sir Thomas Gresham's in Bishopsgate Street, where she dined. After dinner, her majestie returning through Cornhill, entered the Burse on the south side, and after that she had viewed every part thereof above the ground, especially the pawne, which was richlie furnished with all sorts of the finest wares in the citie; she caused the same burse, by a heralde and a trompet, to be proclaimed the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and so to be called from thenceforth, and not otherwise."

Sir Thomas having now, by his great application, experience, and success in business, acquired a very large estate,* determined to employ part of his riches in such a manner as would be most serviceable to his country, and preserve

* Sir Thomas Gresham, among his various speculations, erected a paper mill in the grounds belonging to his splendid seat at Osterley, near Brentford.

"The house standeth in a parke," says Norden, "well wooded and garnished with manie faire ponds; which afforded not onely fish, and fowle, as swannes and other water fowle; but also great use for milles, as paper milles, oyle milles, and corne milles, all which are now decaied, a corne mille excepted. In the same parke was a verie faire heronrie, fallen all to ruine."

This paper manufactory is noticed in a poem by Churchyard, printed A. D. 1588.

"Glasse was at first as straunge to make or vewe
As paper now that is devisde of newe,
Of newe I meane in England, save one man,
That hath greate wealthe, and might much treasure spare,
Who with some charge a paper mill began,
And after built a stately work most rare,
The Royal Exchange."

John Tate, a citizen and mercer of London, is supposed to have first introduced the manufacture of linen paper into this country in the reign of Henry VII.

his own memory with the truest honour to posterity. These ends he judged might best be answered by settling some foundation, for the encouragement of learning; for as he had a liberal education himself, he was very sensible of the advantages that must necessarily accrue to the public by the promotion and improvement of useful knowledge. And having already shewn his regard to trade, by his stately and magnificent structure of the Royal Exchange, for the service and convenience of the merchants in London, he now determined to convert his own mansion-house in Bishopsgate Street into a seat for the Muses, and endow it with the revenues arising from the Royal Exchange, after his decease. While he had this design in view, he was addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and Senate of the University of Cambridge, who by their public orator, Mr. Richard Bridgewater, wrote him an elegant Latin letter, to remind him of a promise made by him, as they had been informed, to give them 500*l.*, either towards building a new college, or repairing one already built. It is probable Sir Thomas might formerly have intimated some such intention, but afterwards changed his mind, when he came to enlarge his design. For in a second letter they acquaint him with a report they heard, that he had promised the Lady Burghley, both to found and endow a college, for the profession of the seven liberal sciences. The only place, as they observe, for such a design, was either London, Oxford, or Cambridge. They endeavour to dissuade him from London, lest it should prove prejudicial to the two universities: and they hope he will not make choice of Oxford, since he was himself bred at Cambridge, which might presume upon a superior regard from him on that account. At the same time they wrote another letter to the Lady Burghley, in which they earnestly request that she will please to use her interest with him, to fix upon

Cambridge for the place of his intended College. But their letter had not the desired effect, for he persisted in his resolution to settle it in his house at London; and, accordingly, by an indenture quadrupartite, dated May 20, 1575, he made a disposition of his several manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, with such limitations and restrictions, particularly as to the Royal Exchange and his mansion house, as might best secure his views, with regard to the uses, for which he designed them. This indenture was soon followed by two wills, written with his own hand.

In the one he bequeaths to his wife (whom he makes his sole executrix) all his goods, as ready money, plate, jewels, live and dead stock, and likewise gives several legacies to his relations, friends, and servants. In the other will he declares his last purpose and intention, in regard to the college, lectureships, and almshouses.

The donation of his mansion-house in London for a seat of learning and the liberal arts, and the provision made to support and perpetuate this laudable gift, was an instance of a generous and public spirit, that has been equalled by few, and must perpetuate his memory with the highest esteem and gratitude, so long as any regard to learning and virtue is preserved among us. The situation of the place, the spaciousness of the fabric, extending westward from Bishopsgate Street into Broad Street, with the eight almshouses situated at the back part of the house; the accommodations for separate apartments of the several professors, and other rooms for common use; the open courts and covered walks; with the several offices, stables, and gardens, seemed all so well suited for such an intention, as if Sir Thomas had it in view at the time he built his house. The stipends of the professors were also very handsome for the time, and a proper encouragement for persons of the

best abilities in the several professions. Sufficient care was likewise taken, that the two corporations to whom this affair was entrusted, might receive no damage by the execution of it. For the stated annual payments, directed by the will, amount to no more than 603*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the yearly rents of the Exchange received by Sir Thomas, were 740*l.*, besides the additional profits, that must arise from time to time, by fines, which were very considerable. But Lady Gresham was to enjoy both the mansion-house and Exchange during her life, in case she survived Sir Thomas, and then they were both to be vested in the two corporations, for the uses declared in the will, for the term of 50 years; which limitation was made on account of the statutes of mortmain, that prohibited the alienation of lands or tenements to any corporation, without license first had from the crown. And that space of time the testator thought sufficient for procuring such license, the doing of which he earnestly recommends to them without delay; in default whereof, at the expiration of the fifty years, these estates were to return to his heirs at law.*

Sir Thomas having settled his temporal affairs, was at leisure to reap the fruits of his past labours and industry. But he did not long enjoy this felicity; for upon the 21st of November, 1579, "betweene six and seven of the clock in the evening, coming from the Exchange to his house in Bishopsgate Street, he suddenly fell down in his kitchen, and being taken up was found speechlesse, and presentlie dead; who afterwards was solemnlie buried in his own parish church of St. Helen there, where he had prepared for himself a sumptuous toome or monument."†

Thus was this eminent man taken off in a manner unexpected, and at an age while he was capable of being

* Ward.

† Hollinshed.

further serviceable to his country for several years; for he was not sixty-one years old when he died. By his death many large estates in several counties of England, amounting at that time to the yearly value of 2300*l.* and upwards, came to his lady, who survived him. His obsequies were performed in a very solemn manner, being attended by 100 poor men, and the like number of poor women, whom he had ordered to be clothed in black gowns, of five shillings and eight pence a yard, at his own expence. The charges of his funeral amounted to 800*l.* His corpse was deposited in a vault at the north-east corner of the church, which he had provided for himself and family. Over the vault is a large and curious marble tomb, fenced round with ornamental iron-work. The arms of Sir Thomas Gresham, together with those of the City of London, and the Mercers' Company, are painted in the glass of the east window of the church, above his tomb.

He left the bulk of his property to his widow for her life. She survived him several years; and died at Osterley Park,* Nov. 23, 1596, and was buried in St. Helen's Church. On her decease the Royal Exchange and the mansion house in Bishopsgate Street, passed into the hands of the two corporations; and according to the desire of the testator, they obtained a patent from King James I., A.D. 1614, to hold them for ever, under the trust created by the will of the donor.

* Osterley Park was the usual summer residence of Sir Thomas Gresham. His widow, on her decease, left it to Sir William Reade, her son by a former husband. The estate passed through many successive occupiers to Sir Francis Child, whose heiress, the Countess of Jersey, is the present proprietor.

THE WILL

OF

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

THIS IS THE LASTE WILL written and disposition of me, SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, of the cittye of London, Knight, concerning all my mannors, landes, tenementes, and hereditamentes, mentioned and conteyned in one quadripartite indenture, made betweene me the said Sir Thomas Gresham and Dame Anne my wife on the one partye, and Phillippe Scudamore, gent., and Thomas Celey on the other partie, dated the 20th day of May, in the seaventeenth yere of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lady, Queene Elizabeth.

First, concerninge the buildinges in London, called the ROYALL EXCHAINGE, and the pawnes, and shoppes, sellors, vawtes, messuages, tenementes, and other whatsoever myne hereditamentes, parcell or adjoyninge to the said Roiall Exchange, I will and dispose, that after the expiration and determynation of the particular uses, estates, and interestes for life and entayle thereof, lymitted in the said indenture bearinge date the 20 of May, I will and dispose that one moitye thereof shall remayne, and the use thereof shall be unto the Maior and cominalty and citizens of London, by whatsoever especiall name or addition the same corporation is made or knowne, and to their successors, for tearme of fiftye yeres then next ensuinge, upon truste or confidence and to the intente, that they doe performe the paiements and other intentes in these presentes hereafter lymitted,

thereof by them to be done and performed. And the other moietye of the said buildinges, called the Roiall Exchainge, pawnes, shoppes, cellors, vawtes, messuages, tenementes, and other myne hereditamentes, with the appurtenances thereunto adjoyninge, shall remayne, and the use thereof shall be to the wardeins and cominalty of the mistery of the mercers of the cittye of London, viz. to the corporate body and corporation of the company of mercers in London by whatsoever especiall name or addition the same corporation is made or knowne, and to their successors, for tearme of fiftye yeres next ensuinge, upon truste and confidence, and to the intende, that they doe performe the paiementes and other intentes in these presentes hereafter lymitted, thereof by them to be done and performed. And I will and dispose, that after such tyme as the one moietye of the said Roiall Exchainge and other premisses, according to the intende and meaninge of these presentes, shall come to the said maior and corporation of the said cittye, and from thence so longe as they and their successors shall by any means or tytle have, hould, or enjoy the same, they and their successors every yere shall give and distribute to and for the sustentation, mayntenance and findinge foure persons from tyme to tyme to be chosen, nominated, and appointed by the said maior and cominalty, and cittezens and their successors, mete to reade the lecture of divynitye, astronomy, musicke, and geometry, within myne nowe dwelling-house in the parishe of St. Helynes in Bishopsgate Streete, and St. Peters the Pore in the cittye of London, (the moietye whereof hereafter in this my last will is by me lymitted and disposed unto the said maior and cominalty and cittezens of the said cittye,) the somme of 200*l.* of lawfull money of Englande, in manner and forme followinge, viz. to every of the said readers for the tyme beinge the

somme of 50*l.* of lawfull money of England yerely for their sallaries and stipendes, mete for foure sufficiently learned to reade the said lectures; the same stipendes and sallaries, and every of them, to be paid at two usuall tearmes in the yere yearly; that is to say, at the feastes of the Annunciation of St. Mary the Virgin, and of St. Mighell the Archangell, by even portions to be paid. And further, that the said maior and cominalty, and cittezens of the said cittie and their successors, from thenceforth, and so long as they and their successors shall by any means have, hould, or enjoy the said moiety before in these presentes to them disposed, shall give and distribute the somme of 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* of lawfull money of England yerely in manner and forme following, viz. unto eight almes folkes whome the said maior and cominalty and cittezens or their successors, shall appoint to inhabite my eight almes houses in the said parish of St. Peters the Pore, to every of them the said almes folkes the somme of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to be paid at foure usuall tearmes in the yere yearly, that is to say, at the feast of St. Mighell the Archangell, the Nativity of our Lord God, the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Marye, and Nativitye of St. John Baptiste, by even portions. And further, that the said maior and cominalty and cittezens of the said cittie and their successors, from thenceforth, and so longe as they and their successors shall by any means have, hould, and enjoy the said moiety before in these presentes to them disposed, shall give and distribute at the tearmes aforesaid, to the reliefe of the pore persons and prisoners in the prisons and places called or knowne by the names of Newgate, Ludgate, the King's Bench, the Marshalsea, and Counter, now kept in Wood Streete, and wheresoever the same prison hereafter shall be kepte, 50*l.* of lawfull money of England in money, or other provision

and necessities for them, viz. to every of the same prisons or places, 10*l.*, at the foure usuall feastes or tearmes of paiementes of rentes within the same cittye of London most accustomed, or within 28 daies next after, by even portions.

And as concerning the other moitye, before in this my presente last will disposed to the said wardeins and cominalty of the corporation of the mercers, I will and dispose, that after such tyme as the same moitye, accordinge to the intent and meaninge of these presentes, shall come to the said wardeins and corporation of the mercers; and from thenceforth, so longe as they and their successors shall by any meanes or title have, hould, and enjoy the same, that they and their successors, every yere yearly, shall give, and pay, and distribute to and for the findinge, sustentation and mayntenaunce of three persons, by them the said wardeins and cominalty and their successors from tyme to tyme to be chosen and appointed, meete to reade the lectures of lawe, phissicke, and rhethoricke, within myne nowe dwellinge-house in the parishe of St. Hellyns in Bishopsgate Streete, and St. Peters the Pore, in the said cittye of London, (the moitye whereof hereafter in this my presente last will is by me appointed and disposed to the said corporation of the mercers,) the somme of 150*l.* of lawfull money of England, in manner and forme followinge, viz. to every of the said readers for the tyme beinge the somme of 50*l.*, for their sallaries and stipendes, mete for three sufficiently learned to reade the said lectures, at two usuall tearmes in the yere, that is to say, at the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Marye, and of St. Mighell the Archangell, by even portions to be paid. And that the said wardeins and corporation of the mercers and their successors, from henceforth, and so longe as

they and their successors shall by any means have, hold, or enjoy the said moitye before in these presentes to them disposed, shall yerely bestowe and expende 100*l.* of lawfull money of England, in manner and forme followinge, that is to say, severally at foure several tearmes in the yere, in and about the expences and charges of a feast or dinner for the whole company of the same corporation, to be had and made in the Mercers Haull in the said cittye of London, and in every their quarter day the somme of 25*l.*

[He further gives to Christ's Hospital, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Bethlem Hospital, the Hospital of the poore in Southwark, and the Counter in the Poultry, to each 10*l.* per ann. And directs that the maior, &c. shall place or put eight poore and ympotente persons into the eight alms houses.] AND, AS CONCERNINGE MY SAID MANSION HOUSE, with the gardeins, stables, and all and singular other the appurtenances in the said parishe of St. Hellyn's in Bishopsgate Streete, and St. Peter's the poore, in the cittye of London, I will and dispose, that after the end, determynation, or expiration of the particular estates, uses, interestes, and entayles thereof lymitted by the said indenture quadripartite, dated the said 20 day of Maie, the same my mansion house, gardein, stables, and other the appurtenances shall remayne, and the use thereof shall be, to the maior and cominalty and cittezens of the said cittye of London, by whatsoever name or addition the same corporation is made or knowne, and to their successors; and also to the wardeins and cominalty of the mistery of the mercers of the city of London: viz. to the corporate body and corporation of the mercers of London, by whatsoever name or addition the same corporation is made or knowne: to have and to hold in common for and during

the tearme of 50 yeres, from thence next followinge full to be compleate and ended, upon trust and confidence, that they observe, performe, and keepe my will, intente and meaninge hereafter in these presentes expressed. And my will, intente, and meaninge is, that the said maior and cominalty, and cittezens, and their successors, and that the said wardeins and cominalty of the mercers, and their successors, after such tyme as the said mansion-house, gardein, and other the appurtenances, shall by vertue of these presentes come unto them, and from thenceforth, so longe as they and their successors, or any of them, shall have, hould, or enjoy the same by any title or meanes, shall permitte and suffer seaven persons, by them from tyme to tyme to be elected and appointed in manner and forme aforesaid, meete and sufficiently learned to reade the said seaven lectures, to have the occupation of all my said mansion-house, gardeins, and of all other the appurtenances, for them there to inhabite, study and daily to reade the said and several lectures. And my will is, that none shall be chosen to reade any of the said lectures, so longe as he shall be married, nor be suffered to reade any of the said lectures after that he shall be married, neither shall receive any fee or stipend appointed for the readinge of the said lectures. And moreover I will and dispose, that if the said maior and cominalty, viz. the chiefe corporation of the said cittye, and the said wardeins and cominalty of the mercers, viz. the corporation of the mercers of the cittye aforesaid, before the end of the said fiftie yeres to them in forme aforesaid lyMITTED, shall procure and obteyne sufficiente and lawfull dispensations and lyssaunces, warrante and authority had and obteyned, shall have and enjoy the said Roial Exchange, messuages, shoppes, pawnes, vaults, houses, and all other the premisses, with the appurtenances, for ever,

severally by such moities, rates, and other portions, and in such manner and forme, as before in these presentes is lymitted, upon trust and confidence, and to the intente, that they severally for ever shall doe, maynteyne, and performe the paymentes, charges, and other intentes and meaninges thereof before lymitted and expressed, accordinge to the intente and true meaninge of these presentes. And that I do require and charge the said corporations and chief governors thereof, with circumspect diligence, and without longe delay, to procure and see to be done and obteyned, as they will answere for the same before Almightye God. For if they, or any of them, should neglect the obteyninge of such lyssaunce, or warrante, which I trust cannot be difficult, nor so chargable but that the overplus of my rentes and proffites of the premises hereinbefore to them disposed, will soone recompense the same, because to so good purpose in the commonwealth, noe Prince nor counsell in any age will deny or defeate the same; (and if conveniently by my will, or other conveyance, I might assure it, I would not leave it to be done after my death;) then the same shall reverte to my right heirs; whereas I do meane the same to the common weale. And then the defaulte thereof shall be to the reproach and condemnation of the said corporations afore God."

[Sir Thomas then leaves to the heirs of his niece, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Henry Nevill, his manors of Mayfield and Wadhurst, Co. Sussex, and the residue of his property, to his wife, Dame Anne Gresham, and her assigns for ever.]

"In witness whereof, I, the said Sir Thomas Gresham, have written this will all with myne owne hand, and to each of the eight leaves have subscribed many me; and to a labell fixed thereunto all the eight leaves have set

to my seale with the grashopper, the fifth day of July,
A.D. 1575.

Per me* THOMAS GRESHAM."

An Act of Parliament was soon afterwards obtained for confirming and ratifying the last will and testament of Sir Thomas Gresham. The clause relating to the College is in these words.

"The buildings in London, called the Royal Exchange, and all pawns and shops, cellars, vaults, messuages, tenements, and other whatsoever hereditaments, parcel of, or adjoining to the said Royal Exchange in London, some time the said Sir Thomas Gresham's, shall be to the said Dame Anne, during her life; and after her decease, the one moiety thereof to the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, by whatever special name or addition the same corporation is made or known, and to their successors for ever; and the other moiety thereof, to the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London, that is to say, to the body and corporation of the company of mercers of London, by whatsoever special name or addition the same corporation is made or known, and to their successors, to the good uses and intents in the said writing, last will and testament limited or appointed."—An. 23d Elizabeth.

GRESHAM COLLEGE was one of the few buildings within the city that escaped the great fire in 1666; and there, for

* This will was proved in the Prerog. Court, Nov. 26th, 1579. See also *Life of Sir Thomas Gresham*, by Ward, where it is copied at length.

nearly half a century, the original founders and first members of the ROYAL SOCIETY held their meetings.*

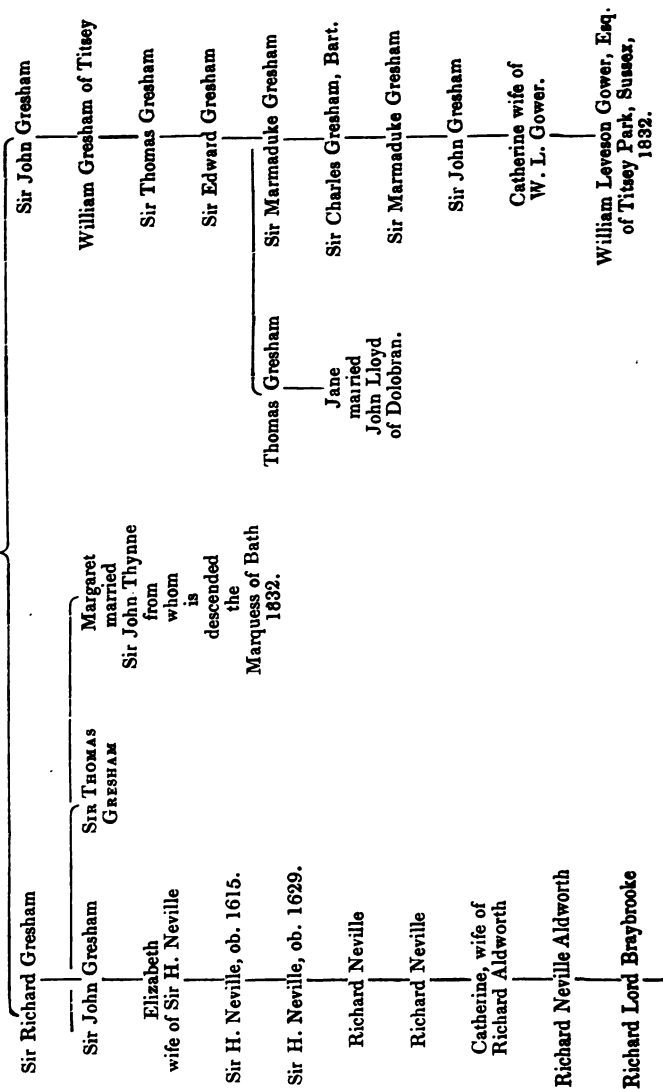
"The place where they have hitherto assembled, is Gresham College; where, by the munificence of a citizen, there have been lectures for several arts endowed so liberally, that if it were beyond sea, it might well pass for an university. And, indeed, by a rare happiness in the constitution, of which I know not where to find the like example, the professors have been, from the beginning, and chiefly of late years, of the most learned men of the nation; though the choice has been wholly in the disposal of citizens. Here the Royal Society has one publick room to meet in, another for a repository to keep their instruments, books, rarities, papers, and whatever else belongs to them. And when I consider the place itself, methinks it bears some likeness to their design; it is now a COLLEGE, but was once the mansion-house of one of the greatest merchants that ever was in England. And such a philosophy they would build, which should first consist wholly of action and intelligence, before it be brought into teaching and contemplation."†

The whole constitution of the college having been altered under the authority of Parliament in the year 1767, an abridgement of the Act will conclude these brief memorials.

* "They received an additional benefit from the turret, erected by order of the Gresham committee over the apartment of the geometry professor, both for making observations in the heavens, and the trial of some instruments contrived by Mr. Hooke, who likewise read his Cutlerian lectures in the hall of the college."—

Ward.

† History of the Royal Society.



AN ACT

For carrying into execution an agreement made between the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the city of London, and the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the said city, and Stamp Brooksbank, Esq., secretary to the commissioners of his majesty's revenue of excise, for the purchase of Gresham College, and the ground and buildings thereunto belonging, and for vesting the same unalienably in the crown, for the purpose of erecting and building an Excise Office there; and for enabling the lecturers of the said College to marry, notwithstanding any restriction contained in the will of Sir Thomas Gresham, Knight, deceased.

WHEREAS the house and buildings now made use of for the managing and conducting the business of his majesty's revenue of excise, situated in the Old Jewry, London, and called or known by the name of the Excise Office, are, for want of necessary room for the officers and clerks, found very inconvenient for the well ordering and conducting the business of the said office, &c.

May it therefore please your majesty, and be it enacted, that from and after the 25th of March, 1768, the messuage called Gresham College, and all the ground, &c. thereunto belonging, containing on the west front, &c. with all rights and privileges belonging to, and enjoyed therewith, shall be vested in and annexed unalienably to the crown; in full satisfaction for which there shall be paid out of the revenue of the excise office to the city of London, and to the mercers company an annuity of 500*l.* per annum.

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the last will and testament of Sir Thomas Gresham of the city of London, Knight, deceased, four persons have from time to time been chosen, nominated, and appointed, by the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the city of London, to read lectures of divinity, astronomy, music, and geometry, within the said college; and also eight persons have been from time to time appointed by the said mayor and commonalty and citizens of London, to inhabit eight alms houses standing within, or adjoining to, and part of, the said college; and also three persons have from time to time been chosen, nominated, and appointed, by the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London, to read lectures in law, physick, and rhetoric, within the said college; and such seven persons so chosen, nominated, and appointed, to read such lectures, have, by the directions of the said will had apartments within the said college, for the purpose of residing there, and reading such lectures: and whereas the said several seven persons, so chosen, nominated, and appointed, to read the said lectures, and the said eight alms folks, the better to enable the mayor and commonalty, and citizens of the city of London, and the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London, to perform their part of the agreement entered into as aforesaid, have respectively agreed and consented to relinquish and quit their apartments and alms houses; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the city of London, do and shall pay, or cause to be paid unto the four persons who now read the said lectures in divinity, astronomy, musick, and geometry, and to their successors, who shall from time to time be chosen, nominated, and appointed, to read the said lectures, and to each and every of them, the yearly

sum of 50*l.* of lawful money of Great Britain, in lieu and instead of their respective apartments, so by them agreed to be relinquished and given up, and over and above the salaries and stipends found, provided and allowed to them for reading the same lectures. And in like manner that the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London, do and shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto the three persons who now read the said lectures in law, physick, and rhetorick, and to their successors, to each and every of them the yearly sum of 50*l.* in lieu and instead of their respective apartments, so by them agreed to be relinquished and given up, and over and above the salaries and stipends found, provided, and allowed to them for reading the same lectures.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority aforesaid, that the mayor and commonalty, and citizens of the city of London, and the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London, do and shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, find and provide sufficient and proper place or places for the present seven professors, and all succeeding persons to be chosen, nominated, and appointed, for the reading the lectures in divinity, astronomy, music, geometry, law, physick, and rhetorick, to read the same in accordingly; and also like sufficient and proper place and places for the habitation of the eight alms folks, now and hereafter for the time being.

AND WHEREAS in and by the said last will and testament of the said Sir Thomas Gresham, the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of the city of London, and the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of mercers of the city of London were directed to permit and suffer the seven persons elected and appointed to read the seven lectures in the

said will mentioned, to have the occupation of all the mansion-house, gardens, and other appurtenances, now called Gresham College, for them, and every of them, there to inhabit, study, and daily to read the said several lectures; and whereas in and by the said will it is directed, that no person chosen to read any of the said lectures, should be suffered to read any of the said lectures after that he should be married, nor should receive any fee or stipend appointed for the reading of the said lectures; and whereas in pursuance of this act the said college will be pulled down and taken away, and the collegiate life of the said lecturers, intended by the said Sir Thomas Gresham, will, by the pulling down of the said college, be put an end to; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the passing of this act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said seven lecturers, or their successors, or any of them, to marry, notwithstanding any restriction contained in the said will, and each and every of the said lecturers, and their successors, shall, notwithstanding their being married, be suffered to read their said several lectures; and the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of the said city of London, and the wardens and commonalty of the said mystery of mercers, shall not be, or be deemed guilty of any misapplication of such sum or sums of money as shall be paid in fees or stipends to the said lecturers, though married; any restriction or limitation in the said will contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

PROFESSORS IN GRESHAM COLLEGE.

PROFESSORS OF DIVINITY.

Anthony Wotton, B.D.	. 1596	Thomas Horton, D.D.	. 1641
Hugh Gray, D.D.		George Gifford, A.B.	. 1661
William Dakins, A.M.	. 1604	Henry Wells, A.M.	. 1686
George Mountayne, D.D.	. 1606	Edward Lany, D.D.	. 1691
William Osbolston, D.D.	. 1610	John Bridgen, A.M.	. 1728
Samuel Brooke, D.D.	. 1612	Benjamin Halifax, A.M.	. 1760
Richard Holdsworth, D.D.	. 1629	John Henry Parker, A.M.	. 1801

PROFESSORS OF ASTRONOMY.

Edward Brerewood, A.M.	. 1596	Christopher Wren, Knt.	. 1657
Thomas Williams, A.M.	. 1613	Walter Pope, M.D.	. 1660
Edmund Gunter, B.D.	. 1619	Daniel Man, A.M.	. 1687
Henry Gillibrand, A.M.	. 1626	Alexander Torriano, LL.D.	. 1691
Mungo Murray, A.M.	. 1636	John Machin	. 1713
Samuel Foster, A.M.	. 1641	William Cockayne, A.M.	. 1751
Lawrence Rooke, M.A.	. 1652	P. Sandiford, D.D.	. 1795

PROFESSORS OF MUSIC.

John Bull, Mus. D.	. 1596	Robert Shippen, D.D.	. 1705
Thomas Clayton, M.D.	. 1607	Edward Shippen, M.D.	. 1710
John Taverner, A.M.	. 1610	John Gordon, .	. 1723
Richard Knight, M.D.	. 1638	Thomas Brome, A.M.	. 1739
William Petty, Knt.	. 1650	Charles Gardner	
Thomas Baynes, Knt.	. 1660	Thomas Griffin	. 1762
William Perry, A.M.	. 1631	Theodore Ayleward	. 1771
John Newey, A.M.	. 1696	R. J. S. Stevens	. 1801

PROFESSORS OF GEOMETRY.

Henry Briggs, A.M.	. 1596	Robert Hooke, M.D.	. 1665
Peter Turner, M.D.	. 1620	Andrew Tooke, A.M.	. 1704
John Greaves, A.M.	. 1630	Thomas Tomlinson, A.B.	. 1729
Ralph Button, A.M.	. 1643	George Newland, M.P.	. 1731
Daniel Whistler, M.D.	. 1648	William Roman, LL.B.	. 1749
Lawrence Rooke, A.M.	. 1657	Mildred Clarke, A.M.	. 1759
Isaac Barrow, D.D.	. 1662	Samuel Kettilby, D.D.	. .
Arthur Dacres, M.D.	. 1664	Samuel Birch, D.D.	. 1808

PROFESSORS OF LAW.

Henry Mountlow, LL.D. .	1596	John Clarke, LL.D. .	1670
Clement Corbet, LL.D. .	1607	Roger Meredith, A.M. .	1672
Thomas Eden, M.P. .	1613	Robert Briggs, A.M. .	1686
Benjamin Thornton, A.M.	1640	John Cuming .	1719
Joshua Crosse, LL.D. .	1644	William Mace .	1744
John Bond, LL.D. .	1649	Joseph Jefferies, LL.D.	1769
B. Thornton, re-elected .	1660	Thomas Taylor, LL.B. .	1785
Richard Pearson, LL.D. .	1667	W. J. Palmer, A.M. .	1808

PROFESSORS OF PHYSIC.

Matthew Gwynne, M.D. .	1596	Henry Paman, M.D. .	1679
Peter Maunsell, A.M. .	1607	Edward Stillingleet, M.D.	1689
Thomas Winston, M.D. .	1615	John Woodward, M.D. .	1692
Paul de Laune, M.D. .	1643	Henry Pemberton, M.D. .	1728
T. Winston, re-elected .	1652	Thomas Healde, M.D. .	1771
Jonathan Goddard, M.D. .	1655	Christopher Stanger, M.D.	1789
John Mapletoft, D.D. .	1675		

PROFESSORS OF RHETORIC.

Caleb Willis, A.M. .	1596	John King .	1676
Richard Ball, A.M. .	1599	Charles Gresham, Bart. .	1686
Charles Croke, D.D. .	1614	Edward Martin, A.M. .	1696
Henry Croke, D.D. .	1619	John Ward, LL.D. .	1720
Edward Wilkinson, A.M.	1627	Joseph Whateley, LL.B. .	1758
John Goodridge, A.M. .	1638	Joseph Waugh, A.B. .	1797
Richard Hunt, A.M. .	1654	Francis Newnham, A.M. .	1808
William Crowne, M.D. .	1659	Edward Owen, A.M. .	1818
Henry Jenks, A.M. .	1670		

COMMEMORATION OF SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

THE establishment of this festival arose from the following circumstances:

In the early part of the year 1831, a few friends and admirers of church music determined upon founding an annual prize medal for the best composition in sacred vocal music; and Mr. Stevens having taken a very active part in the proceedings, it was named, in compliment to him, the GRESHAM PRIZE MEDAL. The first prize having been awarded in Dec. 1831, to Mr. Charles Hart, it became a question, where the medal should be presented and the music performed. It was decided that the presentation should take place, in the first instance, at the Gresham lecture room; but it was considered that the composition, a Jubilate for four voices, could not be performed any where with so much propriety, as in the church where the founder of Gresham College was buried; and a few gentlemen having met together for the purpose of establishing and promoting some public tribute of respect to the memory of this illustrious citizen, and having entered into a subscription to defray the necessary expenses, the first commemoration was accordingly held in the church of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, on Thursday, July 12, 1832, when full cathedral service was most effectively performed by the Rev. James Lupton, Minor Canon of St. Paul's, and other members of the three metropolitan choirs, who attended on this interesting occasion. The following account is copied from the Times Newspaper of July 14.

"Yesterday this ceremony took place at the church of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, of which Sir Thomas was a parishioner, before a select and elegant audience, chiefly composed of ladies. The musical part of the service was performed by Messrs. Vaughan, Hawes, Hawkins, Atkins, Goulden, &c. and some of the young gentlemen of the choir of St. Paul's. Messrs. Attwood, Novello, and Horsley, in turns took the organ. Before the service, Mr. Attwood's New Coronation Anthem, "O Lord grant the King a long life," was finely sung by Messrs. Goulden, Vaughan, and Hawes. The service was chaunted and sung in the cathedral style, and did great credit to the gentlemen who performed it. The *TE DEUM* and *JUBILATE* were new to us, which we understand were composed by Mr. Charles Hart, who it is said has been awarded the Gresham prize of five guineas for the *JUBILATE*. The Anthem, before the sermon, was Dr. Boyce's, "If we believe that Jesus died," and was performed by Messrs. Hawkins and Atkins. After the sermon Mr. Horsley's scientific quartetto, "I heard a voice of heaven," was performed, concluding with a chorus from the Funeral Anthem of Handel. On the whole, the performance was a high treat to all lovers of good music, and to those who take any interest in the institutions of our forefathers.

"There has existed for some time an impression that Sir Thomas Gresham's donations, charities, &c. have not been fairly managed; however this may be, we are persuaded that the directors of the commemoration in 1832, are entitled to the thanks of their friends for the treat they have afforded them."

The following remarks appeared in the *HARMONICON*.

"The name of Sir Thomas Gresham is inseparably connected with the history of science and the liberal arts in England, by his munificent dedication of a part of his fortune to the establishment of a perpetual series of public and gratuitous lectures on those subjects in the metropolis. Changes of times and of manners have for some years past rendered these lectures little attended, and converted the lectureships into something very like sinecures: recently, however, a praiseworthy attempt has been made to give new attractions, and infuse new strength, into that, at least, which has music for its object. The donation of a Gresham prize medal for an original composition in sacred music, the conditions of which were originally published in our number for October 1831, has been followed by a service, in commemoration of the founder, which took place at St. Helen's Church, Bishopsgate on the 12th instant; and at which, the composition to which the prize had been adjudged, formed part of the musical performance. The church of St. Helen was selected as having been Sir Thomas's parish church during life, and the place of his sepulture; and the expenses were defrayed by subscription. The cathedral service was performed by Messrs. Vaughan, Hawes, Hawkins, and Goulden, together with some of the young gentlemen of St. Paul's choir, and of the Chapel Royal. Messrs. Attwood, Novello, and Horsley, presided alternately at the organ. Mr. Attwood's Coronation Anthem, 'Oh Lord grant the King a long life,'—a new *Te Deum* and *Jubilate*, written for the occasion, by Mr. Charles Hart, (the latter being the composition to which the Gresham prize medal had been adjudged,)—Boyce's beautiful anthem, 'If we believe that Jesus died,' and chaunts by Beethoven and Hawes, preceded the sermon, which was delivered by the Rev. W. Multon Blencowe, of Oriel College. After the sermon, Mr. Horsley's quartett, 'I heard a voice from Heaven,' was performed, accompanied by himself, and Handel's chorus 'His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore,' concluded that portion of the commemoration which took place in the church.

"The company, which was limited in number to about two hundred, then repaired to the neighbouring building, 'CROSBY HALL,' well known by name to every reader—and what Englishman is not—of Shakspeare, and which, it is to be hoped, the public-spirited efforts of a society now forming with every prospect of success, will rescue from the vile uses to which it has been for years past been appropriated, and dedicate in renewed splendour to such meetings as the present. In the Hall, after admiring the still beautiful remains of its carved oak roof, the company were again regaled with music. The quartett from Spohr's *Last Judgment*, 'Blessed are the departed,' was excellently sung by Miss Clara Novello, and Messrs. Hawkins, Vaughan, and J. A. Novello, and, in compliment to Mr. Stevens, the Gresham Lecturer, his chaste and beautiful glee, 'Ye spotted snakes.'

"Such was the first commemoration of Sir Thomas Gresham. To use the words of a morning paper, it 'was a high treat to all lovers of good music, and 'to those who take any interest in the institutions of our forefathers.' It is not, however, meant to stop here; on the contrary, it is intended, and we sincerely hope nothing will occur to disappoint that intention, that the commemoration

shall be annual. That for 1833 is already announced as to take place in the month of May, and to include a selection from Mozart's *Requiem*, under the superintendence of Mr. Vincent Novello."

The festival is briefly noticed in the Gent. Mag. for July; and the Atlas Newspaper of July 14, contains a long and clever article on the same subject.

It is intended, with the permission of W. P. Williams Freeman, Esq. to hold the next commemoration in CROSBY HALL.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC,
GRESHAM PRIZE MEDAL.

A GOLD MEDAL, of five guineas value, will be annually awarded by DR. CROUCH, Professor of Music in the University of Oxford ; R. J. S. STEVENS, Esq. Professor of Music in Gresham College ; and WILLIAM HORSLEY, Esq. Mus. Bac. Oxford ; for the best original composition in sacred Vocal Music, either Hymn or Anthem.

The words to be selected from the canonical Scriptures, Apocrypha, or Liturgy of the church of England, and to be set for three, four, or five voices, with a separate part for the organ.

The music to be entirely new ; and one composition only to be sent in by each candidate.

Each composition to be distinguished by a motto. A sealed paper, enclosing the composer's name and address, to be indorsed with the same motto.

The successful composition will remain the property of the author. The unsuccessful candidates may receive back their compositions, on producing a written copy of the motto.

The candidates are to send their compositions, in score, fairly written out, to the Gresham Lecture Room, at the Royal Exchange, before the end of October, on any Wednesday in Term, between the hours of twelve and two. Or they may be left in the care of Mr. J. A. Novello, Frith-street, Soho ; or of Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. Booksellers, Cornhill, by whom they will be duly forwarded, and who will give any further information that may be required.



